



November 1997

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Business Indicators

Australian Capital Territory

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

<i>ISSUE</i>	<i>RELEASE DATE</i>
December 1997	22 December 1997
January 1998	27 January 1998

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

ACT	Australian Capital Territory
n.a.	not available
n.p.	not available for publication
p	preliminary
*	Represents data with a standard error of greater than 25%. Caution should be exercised when using this data.
—	nil or rounded to zero

INQUIRIES

For further information about statistics in this publication and the availability of related unpublished statistics, contact Kingsley Green on Canberra (02) 6207 0286 or any ABS State office.

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

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Dalma Jacobs
Regional Director

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

UPDATED SERIES

Series updated since the October 1997 issue are: labour force; industrial disputes; wage and salary earners; building approvals and commencements; retail turnover; new motor vehicle registrations; consumer price index; average selected retail prices and engineering construction activity. There are two feature articles, one on Families and the Workforce in the ACT and the other on Owner Managers in the ACT on pages 7-9.

NOTABLE MOVEMENTS

Labour force

Trend employment decreased marginally (down 0.4% to 156,300 persons) in October 1997 with the ACT recording its fifth consecutive month of decline. The continued increase in the trend unemployment rate (up by 0.2 percentage points) is completely due to falling numbers of people in part-time employment (down 0.5%). The number of full time employed increased slightly during October (up by 100) while the participation rate fell from 72.8% to 72.6%. Notwithstanding the decline in the participation rate the unemployment rate increased from 8.2% to 8.4%. Nationally, trend employment increased marginally (up 0.1% in October), while the unemployment rate fell 0.1 percentage points to 8.5%.

Industrial disputes

For the 12 months ended July 1997, there were 40 working days lost per 1,000 employees in the ACT compared to 74 days lost per thousand in Australia. This represented a 57.9% decrease for the ACT and a 16.9% decrease for Australia from the previous month's figure.

Wage and Salary Earmers

In May 1997 there were 66,700 wage and salary earners employed in the public sector in the ACT, down 2.1% from the previous quarter and 9.5% from the previous year. This has been the fifth consecutive quarter of decline for wage and salary earners in the public sector in the ACT. Nationally, the number of wage and salary workers in the public sector decreased by 0.6% in May 1997. In contrast, the number of wage and salary workers employed in the private sector in May 1997 in the ACT increased by 5.0% since February 1997 and 11.7% since May 1996. Nationally, the number of wage and salary earners in the private sector recorded an increase of 0.9% from the previous quarter and rose by 1.8% since May 1996.

Housing and construction

The trend number of dwelling units approved in the ACT experienced no change from the previous month's figure and remained at 94 dwelling units in September 1997. Nationally the total number of dwelling units approved increased by 0.4% in September 1997. The trend number of dwelling units approved in Australia has increased for each of the last three months.

The value of non-residential building approvals in the ACT was \$9.0 million in September 1997, a decrease of \$9.3 million (or 50.9%) from the previous month and a decrease of \$41.1 million (82.0%) on

September 1996. Nationally, the value of non-residential building approvals decreased by 24.3% from the previous month and a decrease of 9.7% on September 1996.

The number of new residential housing commencements in the ACT increased by 3.9% in the June quarter 1997 to 294. Nationally there was an increase of 11.8% from the previous quarter. The value of total building commencements in the ACT for the June quarter 1997 was \$121.6 million, down 28.4% from the previous quarter and 43.0% from the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Nationally, the value of total building commencements for the June quarter 1997 increased by 0.1% from the previous quarter and rose 4.5% since the June quarter 1996.

Retail turnover The trend estimate for retail turnover in the ACT for September 1997 was \$215.9 million, up 1.1% on the previous month's figure of \$213.6 million. The national trend retail turnover recorded an increase of 0.7% on the previous month.

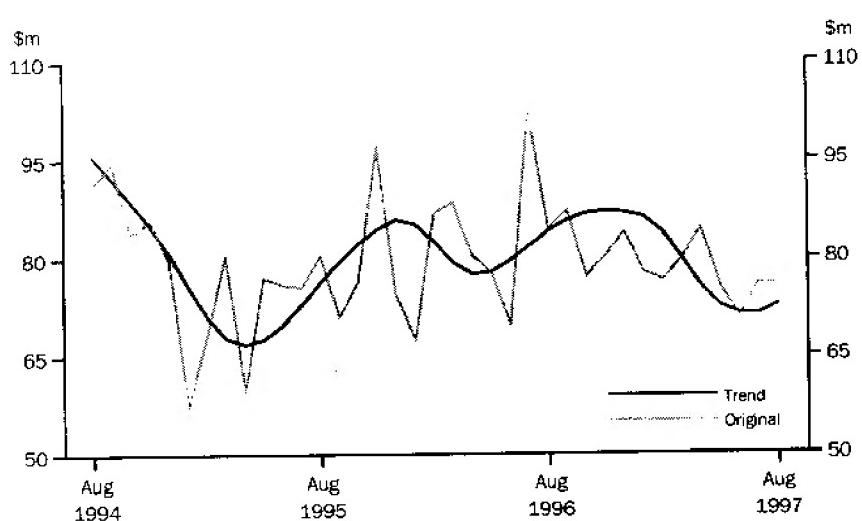
Motor vehicle registrations The trend estimate for ACT new motor vehicle registrations in September 1997 was 1,249, up 2.0% on the previous month, and up 41.9% on September 1996. The series has now recorded eleven consecutive months of increase. Nationally, the trend for total new registrations in September 1997 recorded a 1.3% increase, the twelfth consecutive monthly increase.

Consumer Price Index The ACT experienced a 0.5% decrease for the All Groups CPI for the September quarter 1997, representing the second consecutive month of decline. The weighted average of eight capital cities experienced a 0.4% decrease for the All Groups CPI for the September quarter 1997. The ACT annual CPI rate to September 1997 also recorded a fall of 1.3%, compared to the weighted average of eight capital cities which experienced a 0.3% decrease.

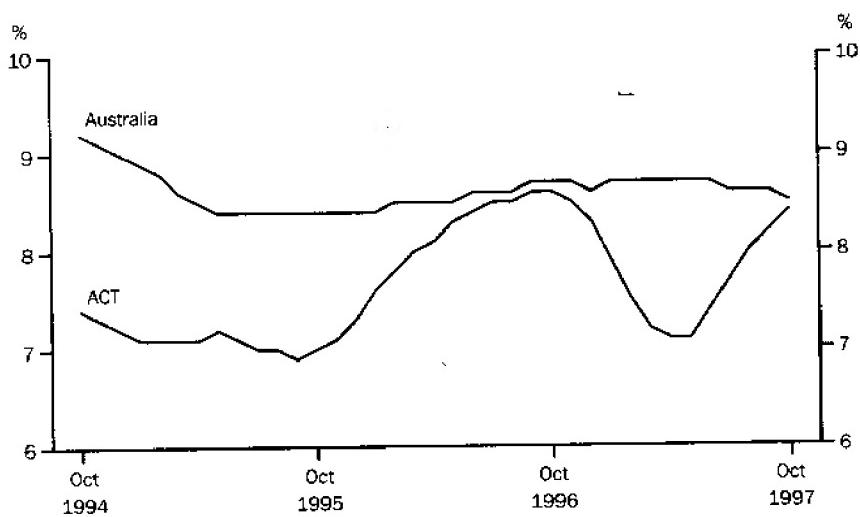
Engineering Construction Activity The value of engineering construction work done by the public sector in the ACT during the June quarter 1997 increased by 47.6% to \$24.2 million from the previous quarter, and was up 14.7% on the June quarter 1996. Nationally, the value of public sector engineering construction was up 44.4% on the previous month and down 0.9% relative to the June quarter 1996. The value of private sector work done in the ACT during the June quarter 1997 increased to \$14.1 million (up 4.4%) on the previous quarter. The value of engineering construction work done in the June quarter 1997 throughout Australia increased by 14.9% from the previous quarter and 7.2% from the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS

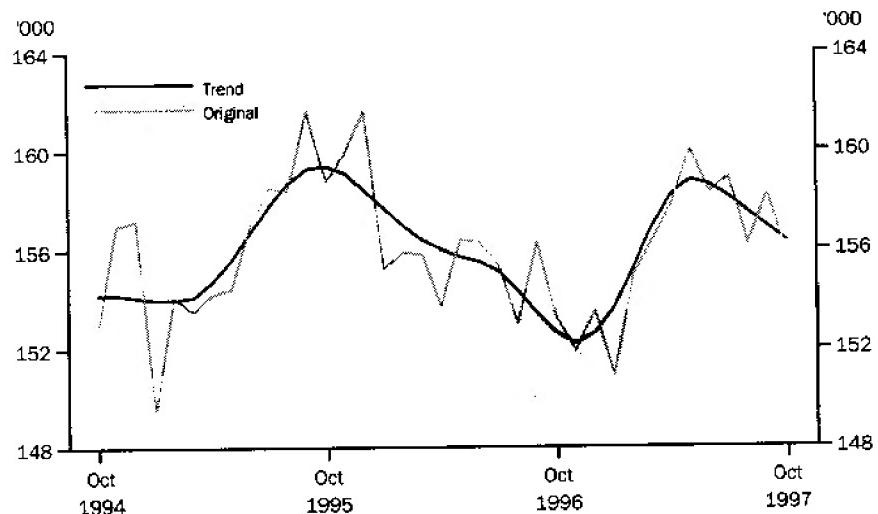
HOUSING FINANCE
COMMITMENTS



LABOUR FORCE — TREND
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

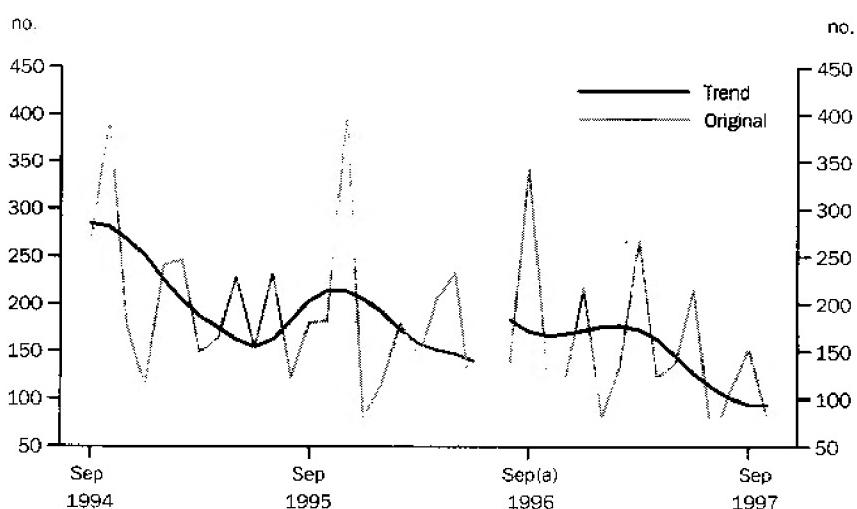


LABOUR FORCE —
EMPLOYMENT



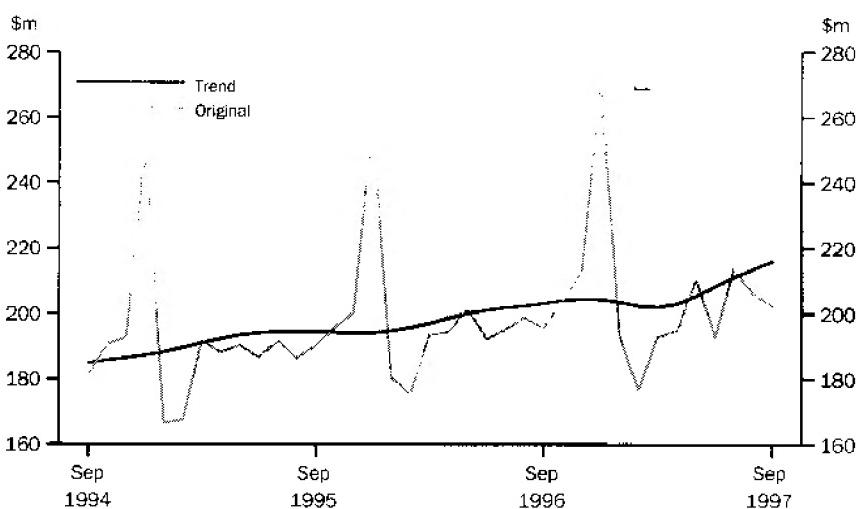
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS *continued*

BUILDING APPROVAL — DWELLING UNITS APPROVED

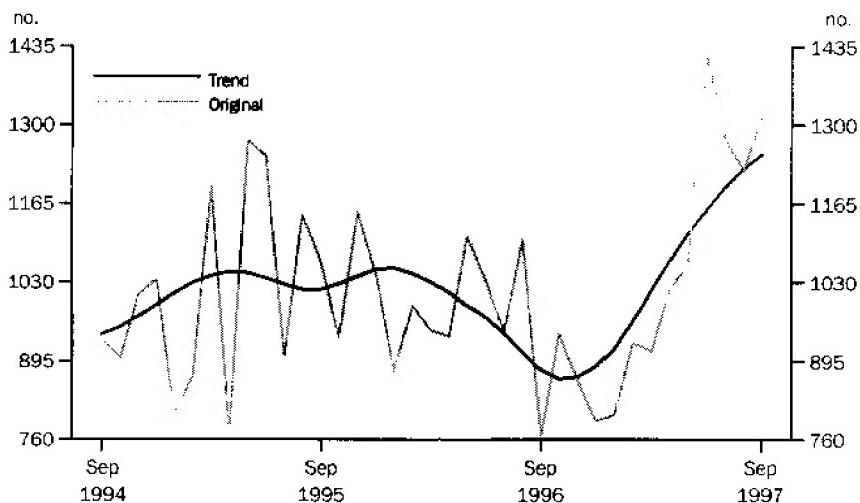


(a) For the period July to December 1996, 165 dwelling units and total building work of \$40.5 million (16%) had been incorrectly omitted from data reported to ABS. All series for the ACT have been revised from July 1996. As further information is received and analysed, the series prior to that are likely to be revised. A trend break has been included in the graph.

RETAIL TURNOVER



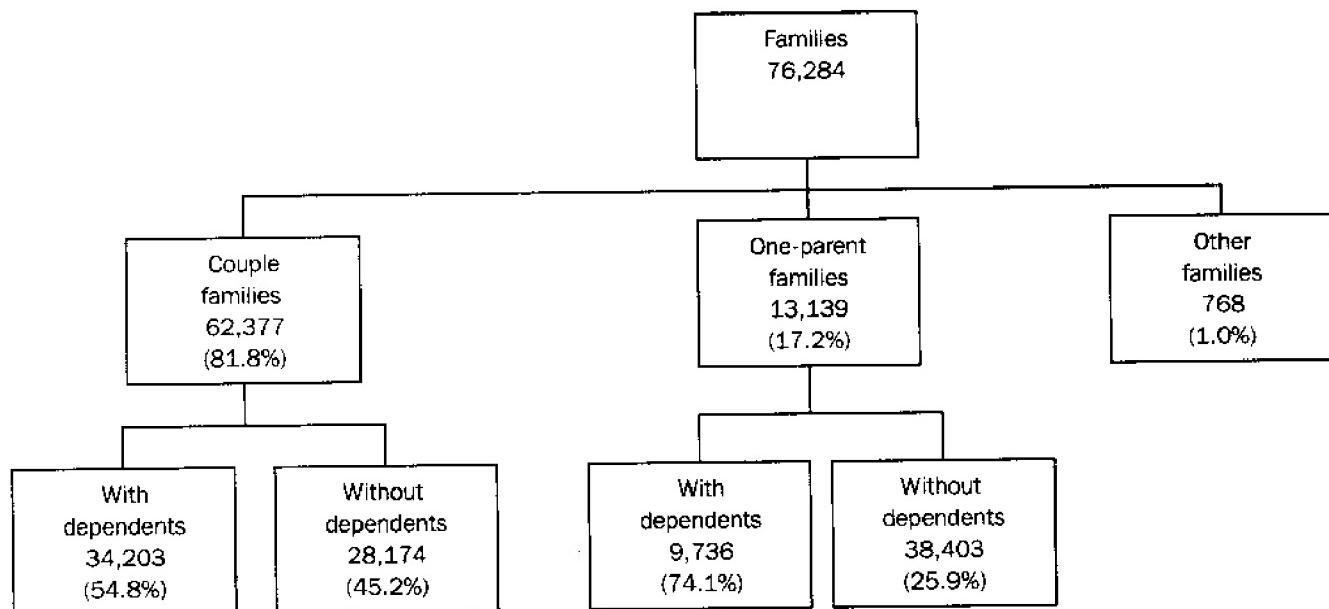
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS



FAMILIES AND THE WORKFORCE IN THE ACT

In June 1997 there were 76,284 families in the ACT, an increase of 1,562 (or 2.1%) since June 1994. Of these, 43,939 or 57.6% had one or more dependent children (down 269 or 0.6% since June 1994) while the remaining 32,345 or 42.4% had none (up 1,831 or 6.0% since June 1994). Of the families with dependents, 38,918 (or 88.6%) had one or more members in employment compared to 24,621 (or 76.1%) of families without dependents. In June 1994, 38,858 (or 87.9%) of families with dependents had one or more members in employment compared to 21,058 (or 69.0%) of families without dependents. Nationally, 84.3% of Australia's 2.5 million families with dependents had one or more family members in employment compared to 66.7% of Australia's 2.4 million families without dependents.

In June 1997, there were 62,377 couple families in the ACT (81.8% of all families), 54.8% of these had dependents while 45.2% were without dependents. This represents an increase of 829 (or 1.3%) couple families since June 1994. By comparison, 13,139 or 17% of all families were one parent families, (up 8.0% since June 1994) with 74.1% of these families having dependents. Nationally, there were 4.1 million couple families (83.5% of all families) of which 48.9% had dependents and 720,000 one parent families (15% of all families).

**For couple families with dependents in the ACT:**

- one or both partners were employed in 93.9% of these families (91.0% nationally);
- 6.1% had neither parent employed (9.0% nationally), and in most of these families, one or both parents were unemployed;
- the husband was unemployed in 3.8% of these families (5.2% nationally); and
- the wife was unemployed in 3.3 % of these families (3.5% nationally).

For couple families without dependents in the ACT:

- one or both partners were employed in 75.7% of these families (65.2% nationally) ;
- 24.3% had neither partner employed (34.5% nationally);
- the husband was unemployed in 1.9% of these families (2.9% nationally); and
- the wife was unemployed in 2.5% of these families (2.2% nationally).

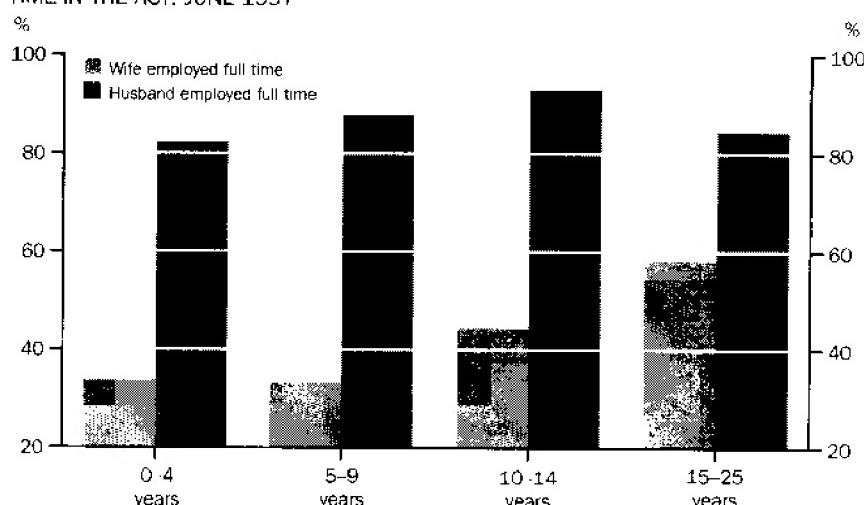
The number of one parent families in June 1997 was 13,139, with women heading 79.6 % of these. Nationally, there were 721,100 one parent families in June 1997, with women heading 84.4% of these families.

For one parent families with dependents in the ACT:

- 61.2% of parents were employed, 5.1% were unemployed and 33.7% were not in the labour force;
- 66.8% of employed parents were working full-time (84.4% of men but only 61.1% of women);
- 64.9% of unemployed parents were looking for full-time work (100% of men but only 57.6% of women).

For couple families with dependents in the ACT, the percentage of wives employed full time increased as the age of the youngest dependent present increased. Similarly, the percentage of one parent families with the parent employed generally increased as the age of the youngest dependent increased.

COUPLE FAMILY BY AGE OF YOUNGEST DEPENDANT: PARENTS EMPLOYED FULL TIME IN THE ACT. JUNE 1997



In June 1997 there were 40,381 persons who were not members of a family in the ACT, with the majority (52.7%) of these people living alone. Of those living alone, only 12,294 or 57.8% were employed (67.2% of men but only 50.4% of women), reflecting the older age profile of this

group. In contrast, 15,970 (83.6%) of people not living alone (but not members of a family) were employed. Nationally, 64.3% of non-family members lived alone, with only 43.0% of this group being employed. In contrast, 72.1% of non-family members not living alone were employed.

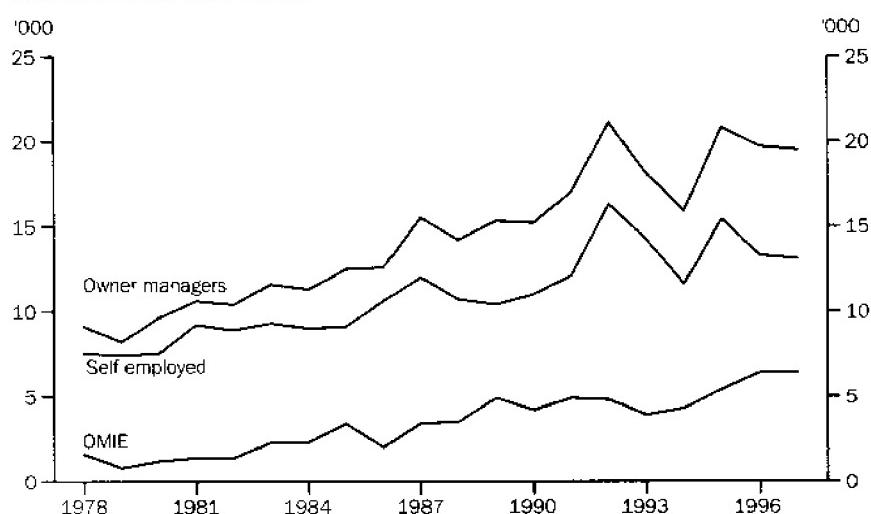
OWNER MANGERS IN THE ACT

An employee is defined as a 'person who works for a public or private employer and receives remuneration in wages, salary, commission, tips, piece-rates or pay in kind, or alternatively in their own business, either with or without employees, if that business was incorporated'. The term owner managers is used to describe the combination of owner managers of incorporated enterprises and self employed persons.

The number of owner managers of incorporated enterprises in the ACT more than quadrupled between February 1978 and February 1997, increasing from 1,600 to 6,400. In contrast, the number of self employed persons increased by 75% (32% nationally) from 7,500 to 13,100 over the same period. As a result, owner managers in total more than doubled with an 115% increase (64% nationally) from 9,100 to 19,500.

Between February 1978 and February 1997, the total number of all employed persons increased from 94,900 to 154,900 (a rise of 63.2%). Of this, the proportion of owner managers increased from 9.6% to 12.6%, with the proportion of owner managers of incorporated enterprises increasing from 1.7% to 4.1% and the proportion of self-employed persons increasing from 7.9% to 8.5%. Nationally, the proportion of employed persons who were owner managers increased from 16.6% to 19.4%. The proportion of owner managers of incorporated enterprises increased from 1.8% to 5.6%, while the proportion of self-employed persons decreased from 14.7% to 13.9%.

OWNER MANAGERS IN THE ACT



1BUSINESS EXPECTATIONS: SALES, DECEMBER QUARTER
1997/DECEMBER QUARTER 1998, EXPECTED AGGREGATE CHANGE

<i>Period</i>	<i>ACT</i>	<i>Aust.</i>
	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Short-term		
Mar qtr 1996–Jun qtr 1996	1.8	2.3
Jun qtr 1996–Sep qtr 1996	0.4	1.6
Sep qtr 1996–Dec qtr 1996	0.3	1.6
Dec qtr 1996–Mar qtr 1997	-1.1	0.4
Mar qtr 1997–Jun qtr 1997	1.3	1.6
Jun qtr 1997–Sep qtr 1997	-1.7	0.7
Sep qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1997	0.5	3.0
Medium-term		
Mar qtr 1996–Mar qtr 1997	2.3	4.1
Jun qtr 1996–Jun qtr 1997	1.4	3.6
Sep qtr 1996–Sep qtr 1997	1.5	3.1
Dec qtr 1996–Dec qtr 1997	2.2	3.1
Mar qtr 1997–Mar qtr 1998	1.7	2.9
Jun qtr 1997–Jun qtr 1998	2.0	2.4
Dec qtr 1997–Dec qtr 1998	1.2	3.9

1

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from		Same period previous year	% change from		Same period previous year
		Latest figure	Previous period		Latest figure	Previous period	
POPULATION, VITAL AND LABOUR							
POPULATION Mar qtr 97	'000	310.1	0.5	1.0	18 492.0	0.4	1.3
Natural increase	no.	728	-6.8	-1.6	33 855	8.9	-2.5
Net migration	no.	866	—	—	31 243	—	—
Total increase	no.	1 594	—	—	65 098	—	—
Original series Oct 97							
Employed	'000	155.8	-1.6	1.7	8 463.9	-0.7	0.9
Unemployed	'000	13.1	-3.7	1.6	736.4	-7.1	-3.7
Unemployment rate(a)	%	7.7	-0.2	-0.1	8.0	-0.5	-0.4
Participation rate(a)	%	71.8	1.4	0.8	62.9	-0.9	-0.6
Long-term unemployed (Sep 97)	no.	3 272	18.9	11.9	267 785	13.8	12.7
Long-term unemployed as percentage total unemployed (Sep 97)(a)		24.1	3.6	1.9	33.8	3.0	4.1
Trend series Oct 97							
Employed	'000	156.3	-0.4	2.4	8 434.0	0.1	0.6
Unemployed	'000	14.4	2.1	—	784.3	-0.4	-1.3
Unemployment rate(a)	%	8.4	0.2	-0.2	8.5	-0.1	-0.2
Participation rate(a)	%	72.6	0.2	1.2	63.0	0.1	-0.6
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS, May 97							
Trend series	--	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Sector	'000	66.7	-2.1	-9.5	1 469.6	-0.6	-5.9
Private Sector	'000	75.5	5.0	11.7	5 358.9	0.9	1.8
Total Public and Private	'000	142.2	1.6	0.6	6 828.5	0.6	—
JOB VACANCIES, Aug 97							
INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN PROGRESS, Jul 97							
Working days lost	no.	0.1	-66.7	-98.7	38.7	30.7	-73.5
Days lost per 1'000 employees (year ended Jul 97)	no.	40.0	-57.9	-67.5	74.0	-16.9	-43.1
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION							
HOUSING FINANCE, Aug 97							
Secured commitments to individuals for							
Original series							
Construction of dwellings	\$m	9.2	46.0	39.4	670.5	-3.1	30.9
Purchase of new dwellings	\$m	5.1	-10.5	-27.1	249.5	-3.1	26.2
Purchase of established dwellings	\$m	50.5	1.0	24.4	2 681.2	-4.4	17.1
Refinancing	\$m	23.4	12.5	-39.8	858.3	-0.2	-21.1
Total housing commitments	\$m	76.0	—	10.0	4 459.5	3.3	10.0
Seasonally adjusted series							
Total housing commitments	\$m	81.5	15.9	-3.4	4 548.4	6.5	13.1
Trend series							
Dwelling units financed	no.	683	1.6	-19.4	39 949	0.1	1.2
Total housing commitments	\$m	72.6	2.0	-13.6	4 412.0	1.0	12.7
BUILDING APPROVALS, Sep 97							
Original series							
Dwelling units	no.	83	-45.8	-34.1	12 779	-3.5	25.5
Value of new residential	\$m	11.2	-30.4	-22.2	1 347.5	-7.0	34.7
Value of residential alterations and additions	\$m	5.1	27.5	-20.3	248.0	7.8	20.0
Value of non-residential	\$m	9.0	-50.8	-82.0	1 035.7	-24.3	-9.7
Value of total building	\$m	25.3	-34.1	-64.4	2 631.2	-13.7	11.8
Trend series							
Dwelling units	no.	94	—	-43.4	11 991	0.4	11.8

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0).

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from		Same period previous year	% change from		Same period previous year
		Latest figure	Previous period		Latest figure	Previous period	
BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION continued							
BUILDING COMMENCEMENTS, Jun qtr 97							
New houses	\$m	294	3.9	-14.0	22 876	11.8	9.1
Value of houses commenced	\$m	33.1	6.8	-7.8	2 527.9	12.6	13.6
Value of non-residential building commenced	\$m	40.6	-64.1	-72.5	2 840.8	-10.8	-3.0
Value of total commencements	\$m	121.6	-28.4	-43.0	7 015.2	0.1	4.5
PRICE INDEXES							
Established house price index, Jun qtr 97	(1989-90=100.0)	127.3	2.4	-0.1	116.8	1.3	2.8
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION (Jun qtr 97)							
Private sector							
Value of work commenced	(1989-90=100.0)	9.1	4.6	-69.8	2 905.1	36.5	56.6
Value of work done	(1989-90=100.0)	14.1	4.4	-25.4	2 355.2	14.9	7.2
Value of work yet to be done	(1989-90=100.0)	23.5	-16.1	-41.4	6 020.2	10.5	26.5
Value of work done by public sector	\$	24.2	47.6	14.7	1 901.2	44.4	-0.9
PRICES, WAGES AND CONSUMER SPENDING							
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, Sep qtr 97							
Food	\$	122.9	0.3	2.2	120.8	—	2.1
Housing	\$	97.0	-1.7	-13.4	95.9	-1.0	-9.6
Transportation	\$	130.6	-0.1	1.3	124.4	0.4	0.8
All groups	\$	119.8	-0.5	-1.3	119.7	-0.4	-0.3
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS, May 97							
Original series							
Males	\$	763.2	-1.8	2.8	686.3	-0.3	2.2
Females	\$m	563.8	-2.2	4.2	457.4	-0.1	3.7
Persons	\$m	664.3	-2.2	3.6	577.5	-0.7	2.3
Trend series							
Males	\$m	767.3	-0.4	1.8	688.6	0.6	2.6
Females	\$m	566.1	-0.1	5.5	457.4	0.8	3.7
Persons	\$m	670.5	0.3	4.4	579.1	0.5	2.6
RETAIL TURNOVER, Sep 97							
Original series							
Food retailing	\$m	76.7	-2.3	-3.4	4 323.0	-1.9	5.8
Department stores	\$m	21.3	10.9	4.9	939.3	12.3	12.6
Hospitality and services	\$m	33.5	-4.3	5.3	1 811.1	-2.3	5.1
All other retailing	\$m	70.9	-3.5	10.6	3 689.1	1.7	8.7
Total	\$m	202.4	-1.8	3.5	10 762.5	0.3	7.2
Trend series							
Food retailing	\$m	79.3	0.8	-3.4	4 469.0	0.4	4.6
Department stores	\$m	24.4	1.2	3.0	1 014.2	1.7	5.1
Hospitality and services	\$m	34.1	1.8	7.6	1 880.0	0.6	5.4
All other retailing	\$m	78.1	1.0	19.1	3 815.9	0.7	5.8
Total	\$m	215.9	1.1	6.3	11 179.1	0.7	5.2

(a) Base year: 1989-90=100.0.

(b) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0).

Indicator	Unit	ACT			Aust.		
		% change from		Same period previous year	% change from		Same period previous year
		Latest figure	Previous period		Latest figure	Previous period	
TOURISM AND TRANSPORT							
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, Mar qtr 97							
Original series							
Room nights	'000	203.4	-8.0	2.6	9 193.5	-3.7	0.6
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.2	-7.2	6.7	923.4	2.4	5.7
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	15.8	-7.6	6.0	765.1	-2.6	4.3
Room occupancy rate (Jun qtr 97)(a)	%	54.5	-3.5	-9.0	54.6	-4.0	1.5
Seasonally adjusted series							
Room nights	'000	210.3	-1.0	3.9	9 288.2	-0.3	1.3
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.8	-1.5	8.8	923.8	1.3	6.2
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.3	-1.8	7.9	765.3	1.1	4.8
Trend series							
Room nights	'000	209.1	0.2	0.8	9 301.8	0.7	1.8
Takings at current prices	\$m	19.7	0.5	4.8	922.0	1.8	6.4
Takings at 1989-90 prices	\$m	16.3	0.6	4.5	763.2	1.5	5.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, Sep 97							
Motor vehicles	no.	1 315	7.6	71.2	62 511	8.6	22.3
Seasonally adjusted motor vehicles	no.	1 277	12.2	58.0	62 983	6.6	16.5
Trend motor vehicles	no.	1 249	2.0	41.9	60 960	1.3	14.8
AGGREGATE INDICATORS							
STATE ACCOUNTS, Jun qtr 97(a)							
Original series							
Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 177	6.4	-1.9	110 954	3.9	3.1
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 643	5.4	-1.6	128 419	4.5	5.0
State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 974	12.5	-2.1	114 867	9.7	4.0
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 460	7.0	3.2	79 087	4.3	3.7
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	203	19.4	-0.5	23 805	27.7	11.5
Trend series							
Gross State product at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 151	0.4	-1.0	112 600	0.6	2.6
Gross State product at current prices	\$m	2 617	0.5	-0.5	129 868	1.2	4.7
State final demand at av. 1989-90 prices	\$m	2 862	1.3	-2.0	112 337	1.2	3.8
Private final consumption expenditure	\$m	1 467	0.8	4.0	79 822	1.0	3.8
Private gross fixed capital expenditure	\$m	197	—	-2.5	21 191	1.4	4.8

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0).

Source: ABS Catalogue nos: 3101.0, 5242.0, 5609.0, 6202.0, 6203.0, 6302.0, 6321.0, 6354.0, 6401.0, 6408.0, 6416.0, 8501.0, 8634.0, 8635.8, 8731.0, 8752.0, 9214.0, 9301.0.

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ACT IN RELATION TO THE REST OF AUSTRALIA

Indicator	Unit	Latest period										
			NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.	
POPULATION	'000	Mar qtr 97	6 260.9	4 595.7	3 392.9	1 478.7	1 791.2	473.8	185.7	310.1	18 492.0	
LABOUR FORCE												
Employed persons (trend)	'000	Oct 97	2 788.7	2 095.4	1 582.8	663.9	867.8	192.3	85.1	156.3	8 434.0	
Unemployment rate (trend)	%	Oct 97	8.0	8.8	9.4	9.7	6.8	11.5	4.2	8.4	8.5	
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS												
Public Sector (trend)	'000	May 97	471.0	323.3	281.4	115.3	146.2	42.8	22.6	66.7	1 469.6	
Private Sector (trend)	'000	May 97	1 914.9	1 410.2	876.7	380.7	529.8	120.7	50.5	75.5	5 358.9	
Total Public and Private Sector (trend)	'000	May 97	2 385.9	1 733.5	1 158.1	496.0	675.9	163.4	73.1	142.2	6 828.5	
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)												
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	\$m	Jun qtr 97	38 126	29 612	18 689	7 662	12 703	2 172	1 253	2 151	112 600	
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	\$m	Jun qtr 97	45 455	33 534	21 007	9 116	13 890	2 641	1 373	2 617	129 868	
BUILDING APPROVALS												
Dwelling units approved	no.	Sep 97	4 158	2 864	3 491	608	1 328	149	98	83	12 779	
Dwelling units approved (trend)	no.	Sep 97	4 082	2 889	3 010	539	1 309	141	133	94	11 991	
Value of non-residential building approved	\$m	Sep 97	396.4	236.7	255.9	58.4	56.5	13.5	9.3	9.0	1 035.7	
Value of all buildings approved	\$m	Sep 97	958.0	618.6	643.9	121.4	211.7	30.1	22.2	25.3	2 631.2	
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION												
Value of engineering construction work done	\$m	Jun qtr 97	1 347.8	783.3	991.1	307.7	689.4	64.3	34.5	38.3	4 256.4	
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS												
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	\$	May 97	721.4	693.4	661.3	656.2	694.0	667.4	705.2	790.6	696.7	
RETAIL TRADE												
Retail turnover (trend)	\$m	Sep 97	4 003.8	2 589.4	2 029.9	821.0	1 126.3	270.9	118.8	215.9	11 179.1	
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION												
Room nights occupied (trend)	'000	Mar qtr 97	3,145.1	1 519.6	2 469.4	535.7	843.4	260.8	318.5	209.1	9 301.8	
Room occupancy rate (original)	%	Jun qtr 97	56.0	53.3	56.4	51.1	53.8	43.7	52.7	54.5	54.6	
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS												
Trend	no.	Sep 97	20 606	15 133	11 696	3 916	6 423	1 316	622	1 249	60 960	
	Unit	Latest period	Syd.	Melb.	Bris.	Adel.	Perth	Hob.	Dar.	Canb.	Aust.	
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX												
Food	(b)	Sep qtr 97	121.4	119.8	118.7	122.0	122.4	121.0	121.8	122.9	120.8	
Housing	(b)	Sep qtr 97	101.3	88.7	102.4	92.2	90.4	97.7	113.6	97.0	95.9	
Transportation	(b)	Sep qtr 97	125.2	124.6	123.7	123.2	121.8	122.2	122.4	130.6	124.4	
All Groups	(b)	Sep qtr 97	119.8	119.5	120.7	121.2	117.5	120.6	121.0	119.8	119.7	
Average retail prices (cents)												
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	1 litre	Sep qtr 97	116	130	117	122	133	125	121	114	n.a.	
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	680 g	Sep qtr 97	203	199	191	161	182	183	196	190	n.a.	
Beef, rump steak	1 kg	Sep qtr 97	1172	1072	1088	1135	1024	992	1218	1028	n.a.	
Chicken, frozen	1 kg	Sep qtr 97	365	398	354	362	364	406	440	372	n.a.	
Potatoes	1 kg	Sep qtr 97	122	136	117	111	114	70	132	113	n.a.	
Coffee, instant (jar)	150 g	Sep qtr 97	630	638	629	573	685	663	610	614	n.a.	
Scotch nip, public bar	30 ml	Sep qtr 97	329	290	255	348	355	253	321	292	n.a.	
Private motoring petrol												
Leaded	1 litre	Sep qtr 97	74.6	74.5	65.8	74.5	74.6	79.7	80.9	77.3	n.a.	
Unleaded	1 litre	Sep qtr 97	72.4	72.3	63.6	72.2	72.5	77.7	78.9	75.1	n.a.	

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0).

(b) Base year: 1989-90=100.0.

Indicator	Latest period	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
POPULATION	Mar qtr 97	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.5	-0.1	0.4	0.5	0.4
LABOUR FORCE										
Employed persons (trend)	Oct 97	—	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.1	—	-0.4	0.1
Unemployment rate (trend)	Oct 97	—	-0.1	—	—	-0.1	0.1	-0.5	0.2	-0.1
WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS										
Public Sector (trend)	May 97	-1.6	1.0	0.1	-2.1	-0.5	1.8	0.9	-2.1	-0.6
Private Sector (trend)	May 97	1.9	—	1.2	-0.3	0.2	-0.2	-1.2	5.0	0.9
Total Public and Private Sector (trend)	May 97	1.1	0.2	0.9	-0.7	—	-0.8	-0.4	1.6	0.6
STATE ACCOUNTS(a)										
Gross State product at 1989-90 prices (trend)	Jun qtr 97	0.3	1.3	0.9	-0.5	—	-0.8	0.8	0.4	0.6
Gross State product at current prices (trend)	Jun qtr 97	1.4	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.2	-0.2	1.0	-0.5	1.2
BUILDING APPROVALS										
Dwelling units approved	Sep 97	-8.8	-11.1	12.8	7.0	-3.3	9.6	-32.9	-45.8	-3.5
Dwelling units approved (trend)	Sep 97	-0.1	3.0	3.0	-2.9	-2.8	1.4	-11.3	—	0.4
Value of non-residential building approved	Sep 97	44.2	28.3	-12.8	-8.5	-30.6	110.9	-11.4	-50.8	-24.3
Value of all buildings approved	Sep 97	31.9	7.8	3.4	-1.5	-8.8	44.0	-29.3	-34.1	-13.7
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION										
Value of engineering construction work done	June qtr 97	25.9	32.5	24.9	53.6	16.7	7.2	13.9	28.1	26.4
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS										
Full-time adult ordinary time (trend)	May 97	0.3	1.1	1.3	1.2	0.4	1.5	1.1	-0.3	0.7
RETAIL TRADE										
Retail turnover (trend)	Sep 97	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.7	0.4	—	1.1	1.1	0.7
HOTELS, MOTELS AND GUEST HOUSE ACCOMMODATION										
Room nights occupied (trend)	Mar qtr 97	0.4	0.8	0.8	1.9	0.3	—	3.4	0.2	0.7
Room occupancy rate (original)	Jun qtr 97	-4.9	-6.5	-0.9	4.3	-3.3	-19.2	6.3	-3.5	-4.0
NEW MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS										
Trend	Sep 97	1.1	2.3	0.7	0.8	1.5	0.5	-2.4	2.0	1.3
	Latest period	Sydney	Melbourne	Brisbane	Adelaide	Perth	Hobart	Darwin	Canberra	Australia
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX										
Food	Sep qtr 97	-0.1	0.2	1.0	0.1	0.4	—	-0.2	0.3	0.0
Housing	Sep qtr 97	-0.5	-1.6	-0.6	-2.0	-1.5	-0.7	-0.9	-1.7	-1.0
Transportation	Sep qtr 97	0.5	0.6	—	0.4	-0.3	0.4	—	0.1	0.4
All Groups	Sep qtr 97	0.3	-0.3	-0.3	0.6	-0.5	-0.6	-0.4	-0.5	-0.4
Average retail prices (cents)										
Milk, carton, supermarket sales	Sep qtr 97	0.9	—	0.9	—	2.3	—	3.4	1.8	n.a.
Bread, white loaf, sliced, supermarket sales	Sep qtr 97	1.0	3.6	-3.0	0.6	2.2	7.0	1.0	1.6	n.a.
Beef, rump steak	Sep qtr 97	-2.7	3.8	0.4	-0.5	-4.8	3.5	2.4	1.4	n.a.
Chicken, frozen	Sep qtr 97	3.7	2.8	7.6	-2.2	3.1	1.0	1.6	-1.3	n.a.
Potatoes	Sep qtr 97	0.8	4.6	0.9	2.8	1.8	-9.1	1.5	-0.9	n.a.
Coffee, instant (jar)	Sep qtr 97	4.0	15.2	5.4	6.3	18.7	5.6	3.0	-3.8	n.a.
Scotch nip, public bar	Sep qtr 97	3.5	1.4	0.4	0.9	1.4	1.6	0.6	0.3	n.a.
Private motoring petrol										
Leaded	Sep qtr 97	-1.7	1.4	-1.9	-1.2	-3.1	-0.4	-1.9	-2.9	n.a.
Unleaded	Sep qtr 97	-1.8	1.3	-2.0	-1.1	-3.1	-0.3	-2.0	-3.0	n.a.

(a) State estimates are not comparable to national estimates from the June quarter 1995 due to revised methodology used in Australian National Accounts, State Accounts (Cat. no. 5242.0).

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1

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